

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 24-25, 32-34, 39-43, 45-48, 56-57, 62-63, 192, and 196-200 are pending in the Application.

I. ELECTION REQUIREMENT

In the Election Requirement, Examiner indicated:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species polymerization of the liquid L2 or the solidified of the liquid L2 or the washing of L from article A. The species are independent or distinct because the search for one would not require the search for the other. In addition, these species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, or a single grouping of patentably indistinct species, for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

Election Requirement, at 2.

So that Applicant's election is clear, it understands the species identified by the Examiner as follows:

- (1) The species of "polymerization of the liquid L2" is directed to the limitation added in dependent Claims 41 and 198, which each recite the limitation:

wherein said liquid L2 comprises a monomer that is capable of polymerization, and wherein liquid L2 is substantially polymerized while in intimate contact with article A.
- (2) The species of "solidified of the liquid L2" is directed to the limitation added in dependent Claims 42 and 199, which each recite the limitation:

wherein said liquid L2 is at least partially solid at room temperature and liquid above a higher temperature T_0 , and wherein said liquid L2 is solidified while in intimate contact with article A.

- (3) The species of "washing of L from article A" is directed to the "used to wash liquid L from article A" limitation added in dependent Claims 41 and 197, which claims each recite the following limitation in full:

wherein a liquid L2 is subjected to an action selected from the group consisting of (1) maintained in intimate contact with article A at the end of said step of washing with a liquid L; (2) used to wash liquid L from article A; (3) placed in intimate contact with article A after the optional drying step, wherein volatilizable components of liquid L are substantially removed; and combinations thereof.

In response of such identified species, Applicant elects, without traverse, the species that include the "washing of L from article A" limitation.

Claims 40-43 and 197-200 include the "washing of L from article A limitation;" accordingly, these claims are directed to the elected species. Applicant notes that Claims 41 and 198 (which depend from Claims 40 and 197, respectively) are linking claims for the species of "polymerization of the liquid L2" and the species of "used to wash L from article A." M.P.E.P. § 809 (recognizing common types of linking claims include "subcombination claims linking plural combinations"). Applicant notes that Claims 42 and 199 (which depend from Claims 40 and 197, respectively) are linking claims for the species of "solidified of the liquid L2" and the species of "used to wash L from article A." *Id.*

Claims 1-3, 24-25, 32-34, 39, 45-48, 56-57, 62-63, 192, and 196-197 are generic to the elected species. Examiner indicated in the Election Requirement that Claim 1 is generic. Election Requirement, at 2. Claims 2-3, 24-25, 32-34, 39, 45-48, 56-57, 62-63, 192, and

196-197 likewise do not include any limitations directed to polymerization of the liquid L2, the solidification of the liquid L2, or the washing of L from article A. Thus, like Claim 1, these claims are generic.

Applicant's response to Examiner's Election Requirement includes "(i) an election of a species or a grouping of patentably indistinct species to be examined" and "(ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species or grouping of patentably indistinct species," as Examiner indicated was required. Election Requirement, at 2-3.

As each of the pending claims in the Application are either (a) generic to the elected specie (Claims 1-3, 24-25, 32-34, 39, 45-48, 56-57, 62-63, 192, and 196-197) or (b) directed to the elected species (Claims 40-43 and 197-200), there is no need to cancel any of the pending claims (nor has Applicant done so).

II. AMENDMENTS

Applicant has amended Claims 40, 43, 197, and 200 to properly reflect that "L" referred to in those claims is "liquid L." Such amendment does not add new matters in the claims.

III. CONCLUSION

The claims in the Application remain in a condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such Claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call Applicant's attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

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All fees related to this response are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System. We believe there to be no further fee(s) due at this time, however, if we have calculated incorrectly, please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 504410, referencing Attorney Docket No. 21724-003US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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